

Hazrat Abu Bakr (Raz)

IRFAN KHALILI

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In the name of Allah
the Beneficent, the Merciful

If I had wished for a friend,
Abu Bakr would have been that friend.

(Bukhari and Muslim)

Khulafa-e-Rashedeen

'*Khulafa*' is the plural form of '*Khaleefa*' which means successor and '*Rashedeen*' is the plural form of '*Rashid*' which means the one who treads the path of righteousness. In this way, Khulafa-e-Rashedeen means the successors (of the Holy Prophet) who followed the 'path of righteousness'.

When the Holy prophet left for his Heavenly Abode, four khaleefas (caliphs) succeeded him:

1. Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddique 2. Hazrat Umar Farooque 3. Hazrat Usman Ghani 4. Hazrat Ali.

These four pillars of Islam are known as 'Khulafa-e-Rashedeen' or 'Four Companions'. They administered the Islamic state strictly in accordance with the will of Allah made explicit by their beloved prophet, and literally followed him without the least deviation from his policy adopted for governing the state.

In this booklet you will read about Hazrat Abu Bakr, the first Khaleefa and the Holy Prophet's *yaar-e-ghaar* (companion in the cave Saur).

His Name And His Family

Hazrat Abu Bakr's real name was Abdullah; Abu Bakr was his filial appealation and 'Siddique' and 'Atique' were his titles.

His father's name was Usman and the nickname, Abu Quohafa.

His mother's name was Salma and the nickname, Ummul Khair.

His paternal grandfather's name was Aamir and maternal grand father's name was Sakhar.

He belonged to the Banu Tayam branch of the tribe of Quraish and was held in high esteem by the residents of Makka. Six generations earlier the Apostle of Allah and Hazrat Abu Bakr had common ancestors, hence they belonged to the same family umbrella.

His mother joined the fold of Islam much earlier than his father, who embraced the Religion of Truth after the conquest of Makka.

He died at the mature age of 97 and towards the evening of his life he lost his eve-sight.

Birth And Childhood

Hazrat Abu Bakr was born in June 573 of the Christian calender at Makka. He was younger to the Holy prophet by two years and a half. He had the privilege of cultivating close friendship with the Holy Prophet early in his childhood. He greatly admired the habits and talks of the Messenger of Allah. He always endeavoured to imbibe the habits of his dear friend.

Walking in the foot-steps of the Last Prophet of Allah, Hazrat Abu Bakr was very particular about cleanliness, abhorred all evils, shunned everything that was undesirable and unlikable. He was by nature shy, hated all shameless things, always spoke the truth and despised falsehood. He was always ready to render help to the fellow men, and spared no efforts to do all he could to alleviate the sufferings of the less fortunate ones. In this way, he imitated his ideal most truthfully. Both of them stayed and played together. From his very childhood he was very pious, virtuous, kind and respectful to the elders. Naturally he had won the hearts of the Makkans who loved and honoured him in great measure.

An Interesting Anecdote

In those days idol worship was very common among the Arabs, in addition to lots of other evil practices. They drank; gambled and usurped others' property. But Hazrat Abu Bakr was an exception and shunned all such evils. In his house idols of various imaginary deities were placed in a room reserved exclusively for their worship by the members of his family. Hazrat Abu Bakr never worshipped them, nor did he ever fall prostrate before them. Once he narrated an interesting incident of his life: "Once my father took me to the room wherein were placed the idols. Pointing at one of the idols he told me that it was god and bade me to prostrate before it. When he went out, I said to the idol- 'I am hungry, give me food'. The idol did not respond to my demand. Then I asked for clothes but it still kept mum. Finally I picked up a stone and challenged it to fend itself against the stone. It did not respond to the challenge. With the stone I took aim and smashed its head. It fell down and I came out of the room."

Truly speaking, idols are helpless and can do nothing for us. It is sheer stupidity to worship them.

His Youth

When Hazrat Abu Bakr grew up into a youth, each member of the clan of Quraish was willing to sacrifice his life for the sake of the noble youth, who always came forward whenever his assistance was called for. He commanded great respect among the Quraish.

All Cases of murders were referred to him and he settled them with such prudence and sagacity that the parties concerned were fully satisfied with his verdict and the assassins most willingly paid 'blood money' to the kin of the deceased.

From the very early days of his childhood he was a very close friend of the Apostle of Allah and he came closer to him as he advanced in years. He could not stay without the beloved Prophet even for a little while. Most of his time was spent in the company of his dear friend. He chose business as his occupation and in this field he was so successful that he became one of the most prominent businessmen of Makka. He accompanied the Holy Prophet on several of his business trips.

He Embraces Islam

When Allah entrusted the Holy Prophet with prophethood, he secretly began to invite his close friends and relatives to join the fold of Islam. Hazrat Abu Bakr at once responded to the call of the Apostle of Allah without any hesitation. He was the first among the free men to acknowledge Islam as his faith. There was nothing surprising about it. Long and close association with the Prophet had made his heart clean like a mirror. For him it was unimaginable to question the truthfulness of the Prophet's word. He had always found the Apostle of Allah speaking the truth, and nothing but the truth. As soon as the Apostle declared that Allah had chosen him as His Prophet, he bore witness to his prophethood, acknowledged him as Allah's messenger, and had the honour and privilege of being the first among all men to embrace Islam. At that time he was thirty seven.

Propagation Of Islam

After embracing Islam it was his most ardent desire to invite as many people to join the fold of Islam as he possibly could, to make them virtuous and

thus save them from the eternal punishment in the Hell.

Initially the propagation of Islam was taken up secretly and a large number of people responded to his call. This gave him courage and with the permission of the Holy Prophet he publicly invited the People to embrace Islam. This irritated the unbelievers of Makka, who fell upon him and assaulted him so brutally that he fell down unconscious, bleeding profusely. Thinking that he had succumbed to the assault, they went away. The people of his tribe felt pity on him and took him home. When he came round, the very first words he uttered were: "How is the beloved Prophet,? Take me to him"

Thus, you see, how profound was his love for the Apostle of Allah. Totally disregarding his own injuries and pain, his only concern was the well being and welfare of the Holy Prophet.

May Allah be pleased with him. Aameen!

Dedication To The Noble Cause

As soon as he recovered, he took up the propagation of Islam with the same vigour, devotion and passion. He said to the people. "Brethren, have you ever heard the Apostle of Allah speaking but the truth in any matter whatsoever? How can he, then, tell

you lies regarding Allah? We give him the title '*Ameen*' (the trustworthy) and '*Saadiq*' (the truthful). Whatever he tells us is for our own good. He wants to save us from the fire of Hell and does not expect any reward for all he does for us. He is our true well-wisher. Is it against the truth when he tells us that the Absolute Master of the universe, our Lord is only Allah, and none but Allah? He created us, feeds us and a day will come when he will call us back to Himself and judge us according to our deeds. He will bless and reward us for our good deeds and we will earn His wrath and punishment for the bad ones. The idols fashioned by our own hands have no power either to reward or to punish us. They are powerless. Hence it is nothing but folly and stupidity to worship them. We should obey Allah's commands made known to us through His beloved Apostle.

The Converts To Islam

Hazrat Abu Bakr's simple and sincere words won the hearts of the people and they started thinking about their own ages-old way of life and found it erratic in many ways. Then a good number of them adopted Islam as their way of life. The most prominent ones of them are:

Hazrat Usman bin Affan

Hazrat Zubair bin alawaam
Hazrat Abdur Rehman bin Owf
Hazrat Saad bin Abi waqqas
Hazrat Talha bin Abdullah
Hazrat Usman bin Matnoon
Hazrat Abu Obaidah bin Jarrah
Hazrat Abu Salma
Hazrat Khalid bin Saeed bin al Aas

Bought Freedom For The Slaves

Hazrat Abu Bakr generously gave the Holy Prophet financial assistance for the propagation of Islam. He was well aware of the fact that all his wealth was given to him by Allah and its best use was to spend it in the name of Allah. He, therefore, never hesitated in spending whatever he had for the Noble Cause.

At that time many a male and female slave had embraced Islam and their masters, who were still unbelievers, treated them with hair-splitting brutality and gave them all sorts of physical and mental tortures. Hazrat Abu bakr could not bear the sight of cruelties let loose on them by the pitiless masters. He negotiated to those heartless fellow, and got them liberated by paying the sums named by the masters.

The slaves whose freedom he bought off the masters are Hazrat Bilal, Hazrat Nazirah, Hazrat Bint-e-Nehdiyah, Hazrat Aamir Bin Fohairah, Hazrat Jariyah.

Migration To Habash (Ethiopia)

Hazrat Abu Bakr had built a mosque inside his house wherein he worshipped Allah. His recitation of the Quran was so impressive that it touched the very hearts of the listeners and attracted them. The enemies of Islam felt jealous of him and started hurting him, both physically and mentally, so much that he sought the Holy Prophet's permission to migrate to Habash (now known as Ethiopia).

On the way, he came across a Makkan chief, Ibn-i-Daghna, who asked him, "Where do you intend to go?" He narrated to him the circumstances that had forced him to migrate to Habash. The chief gave him his protection and brought him back to Makka. But the unbelievers allowed him to stay in Makka on condition that he would refrain from reciting the Quran in a loud voice. How was it possible for him? He resumed his loud recitation of the Holy Book. When the opposition became stiff and the things took an ugly turn he asked Ibn-i-Daghna to withdraw his support extended to him, as the protection of Allah and His Apostle was sufficient for him. Thus, you see, he did not stop his recitation of the Holy Quran even in the wake of serious threats to his life.

His Testimony

Meanwhile, Allah elevated His Apostle to the skies overnight, showed him around Heaven and Hell and conversed with him on various topics. This is known as '*Meraj*' (Ascension). In the morning the Holy Prophet told the people about it. The Makkan chiefs started mocking at him. Abu Jahl rushed to Hazrat Abu Bakr and said, "Haven't you heard, your 'boss' has something new to tell us? He is going about the town telling the people the preposterous stories about how Allah took him to "Bait-ul-Maqdis" and then to the skies. This is the extreme. He seems to have lost his head.

Hazrat Abu Bakr's face reddened with fury. He spoke up at once, 'If the Prophet says so, I testify to its truthfulness, as he has never spoken but the truth, and we address him as '*Sadiq*' a title he has been given for his truthfulness.

On getting such a rebuff, Abu Jahl was disappointed and came back with a long face. His nefarious attempt to embarrass Hazrat Abu Bakr failed outright. He had not gauged the depth of Hazrat Abu Bakr's love for, devotion to and faith in the Apostle of Allah.

The Title Of Siddique

Then Hazrat Abu Bakr went to the Holy Prophet and found him surrounded by the people of Makka who were mocking at him. Hazrat Abu Bakar called out, "Stop it!" He then addressed the Holy Prophet:

"O Apostle of Allah, I have seen 'Bait-ul-Maqdis.' Please be kind enough to tell us how many doors it has and the directions they open on." The Holy Prophet told them their exact number and directions.

Hazrat Abu Bakr loudly proclaimed, "What the Apostle of Allah has told us is true and there is no room for doubt in it.

After this rebuff the unbelievers dispersed with long faces. The Holy Prophet was vey pleased with this proclamation and blessed Hazrat Abu Bakr with the title of 'Siddique'. Since that day the Believers started addressing him by that title.

Love For The Prophet

Unlimited was his love for the Holy Prophet, for whom he was always ready to sacrifice even his dear life.

Once the Holy Prophet was offering prayers by the Kaaba. Meanwhile, a group of unbelievers came by and took high offence when they saw him praying. One of their chiefs, Aqba, stepped forward, threw his kerchief round the Holy Prophet's neck and tightened it in order to throttle him. The Holy Prophet panted for breath and the ruffians standing by jeered and ridiculed him.

The moment Hazrat Abu Bakr came to know about it, he rushed to the Kaaba and seeing the heart-rending scene, pushed Aqba aside, and disregarding his own safety and not caring about his own life, unloosened the kerchief from round the Holy Prophet's neck, reprimanded the unbelievers and escorted his dear one away from there, leaving the unbelievers looking helplessly at them.

Put His Own life At stake

A similar instance is reported by Hazrat Ali. He is reported to have said: "One day I went to the Kaaba. There I found the Holy Prophet surrounded by a group of the Quraish. Among themselves they were manhandling, pushing and dragging the Holy Prophet about. The Holy Prophet was breathless and did not know what to do. The unbelievers were yelling at him in anger, "It is you who find fault with our gods and

refuse to believe in them!"

"The Prophet looked helpless in their vicious clutches and none of us could muster courage to go for his rescue. But Hazrat Abu Bakr, putting his own life at stake, got into the crowd and pushing and elbowing the hostile crowd and hitting about, made his way to the Apostle of Allah and brought him out of their grip. He fearlessly reprimanded the Quraish.

"Shame on You! You wish to kill a man who is your well-wisher and whose only 'fault' is to proclaim that his Deity is Allah, and none but Allah!"

Proposes To Migrate

When the atrocities of the unbelievers committed on the Believers went on becoming more and more brutal, the very survival of the Believers seemed difficult. Compelled by the cruel circumstances, Hazrat Abu Bakr decided to migrate to the safety and security of Madina and quietly started making preparations to say good-bye to Makka. When the Apostle of Allah came to know of it, he called Hazrat Abu Bakr and asked him, "What are your plans, Abu Bakr?"

He replied, "O you dearer to me than my own parents, in the wake of the unbelievers' ever-increasing brutalities, I am planning to migrate to

Madina."

The Holy Prophet consoled him and said. "Hold on and don't make haste. It is possible that Allah orders me to leave Makka."

When Hazrat Abu Bakr heard this, his joy knew no bounds only with the idea that he will not be deprived of the company of Holy Prophet even while migrating to Madina. Since then he started waiting impatiently for the devine command in this regard.

A conspiracy for Assassination

When the Makkan chiefs noticed that one by one all the Muslims were migrating to Madina, abandoning Makka, it caused them considerable anxiety and alarm. What worried them most was the fear that the Muslims would grow in strength as many more would join them once the Prophet reached among the people of Madina. This created panic among the Makkans and they held an unholy conference to face the new situation. At last they arrived at the diabolical decision to strike at the very root of their trouble-the assassination of the Apostle of Allah! They also agreed upon a day for this dastardly and cowardly act. They decided to surround his house during the early hours of the night and fall upon him as he stepped out to go to Kaaba at dawn.

Allah's Order To Migrate

But on the very day fixed by the unbelievers for the execution of their unholy scheme, Almighty Allah bade his beloved Apostle to leave Makka for Madina overnight. The Apostle of Allah, contrary to the usual practice, went straight to Hazrat Abu Bakr and apprised him of Allah's command.

"Do I also have Allah's permission to accompany you?" asked Hazrat Abu Bakr. "Of course," the Holy Prophet replied, "Start making preparations for the journey. Hazrat Abu Bakr's joy on hearing these words knew no bounds as he was getting on rare opportunity of rendering his humble services to the Apostle of Allah in that long and arduous journey. Camels had already been kept ready for the journey. He started collecting the requisite baggage in order to be able to set out for Madina without a moment's delay.

Migration to Madina

It was night. A few chosen warriors of Makka had surrounded the Holy Prophet's house and kept watch. The Holy Prophet was resting without the least worry. When it was past midnight, he got up and went to

Hazrat Abu Bakr's house. Those who kept guard failed to see him leave the house. Either Allah caused their eyes shut with drowsiness or temporarily made them blind. Their eyes lost their vision when the Holy Prophet came out of his house.

The Holy Prophet came to Hazrat Abu Bakr's house where he was anxiously awaiting the Prophet's arrival. Hazrat Abu Bakr told a few important sentences to his son, Abdullah, his daughter, Asma, and the slave, Aamir Bin Fohairah, and started off with the Holy Prophet. Near Makka there is a cave named 'Saur' wherein they took shelter. Hazrat Abu Bakr was the first to enter. He cleaned it up a bit, stopped the holes and then the Apostle of Allah stepped into it.

A Snake Appears

The Holy Prophet entrusted everything to Allah and did not worry about the consequences. He was fully aware of the fact that whatever Allah does, it is for the good of his creatures. As a result of this attitude of mind, his heart was always full of peace and contentment. On reaching the cave, the Holy Prophet felt sleepy and placing his head on Hazrat Abu Bakr's thigh, fell asleep. Meanwhile, a snake crept out of a hole that had not been stopped. He did not want

the reptile to harm the Holy Prophet, at the same time he considered it impertinent to disturb the Holy Prophet's sleep. Throwing up all precaution to the wind and putting his own life at stake, the faithful companion tried to stop the hole with his toe. The snake bite him but he bore the pain. The surging pain drew tears from his eyes and a tear that dropped on the Prophet's blessed face woke him up. When he came to know the cause, he applied his saliva to Hazrat Abu Bakr's toe and at the very moment he got rid of all the pain.

Allah Is With Us

The Makkans had been desperately searching for the Holy Prophet and his faithful lieutenant. They looked for them in every nook and corner in and outside Makka.

A group of them also came as far as the cave Saur. So close were they to the cave that their shadows darkened it. Hazrat Abu Bakr felt anxiety. He was concerned not about his own life but about the security of the one who was closest to his heart. He shuddered to think what would happen if the foes spotted them. The Apostle of Allah noticed Hazrat Abu Bakr's anxiety and declared with confidence, "Have no fear. Undoubtedly, Allah is with us."

The Apostle of Allah's blessed words took away all apprehension from his heart. What the Truthful had foretold proved to be true and the blood-thirsty unbelievers went away abandoning their search for the two.

Sojourn In The Cave 'Saur'

Hazrat Abu Bakr sojourned in the safety of Saur with the Apostle of Allah for three days.

During these days his daughter-Asma and his slave, Aamir Bin Fohairah, drove their flock of sheep up to the cave and passed on food and fresh milk to the Holy Prophet and his companion. While going back she carefully erased the foot-marks lest the foes should trace their whereabouts led by the foot-prints.

Hazrat Abdullah, Hazrat Abu Bakr's son was entrusted with a very responsible and risky job. He had to collect the detailed information about the talks, the plans and machinations of the Makkan foes and pass it on to them in person every evening. Hazrat Abdullah performed this duty most faithfully and truthfully with strict regularity.

In this way three days passed.

The Caravan Marches Forward

On the fourth day the Holy Prophet decided to proceed to Madina. Hazrat Abu Bakr ordered his son, daughter and the slave to bring them the necessary baggage for the journey, and camels. When these things were brought to them, they quietly left for Madina. On the way, they also picked up a trusted non-Muslim, Abd Bin Iriqat to lead the way. Hazrat Abu Bakr made his slave, Aamir Bin Fohaira, sit behind him on the camel's back to attend to sundry things during the journey. In this way, the caravan now had four, instead of two people. On the way, an acquaintance asked Hazrat Abu Bakr, "O Abu Bakr, who is with you?" He did not want to disclose the identity of the Holy Prophet, therefore, in a round about way, replied, "He is my guide." Thus you see what an intelligent reply he gave without telling a lie.

In this way, the caravan of four people marched, camping at places and carefully avoiding the searching glances of the foes. The journey was arduous, hazardous and long. It took several days.

Arrival At The Destination

At last on twelfth Rabi-ul-Awwal in the fourteenth year after the Prophethood, the blessed caravan reached the outskirts of Madina. The Ansars had been eagerly and impatiently waiting for the arrival of the Apostle of Allah.

On seeing him they were overwhelmed with joy and went to Quba in a procession to accord him the most rousing welcome. Hazrat Abu Bakr stayed there with the Holy Prophet for a few days and then came to Madina.

The Apostle of Allah chose to stay at Hazrat Abu Ayyub Ansari's house, whereas Hazrat Abu Bakr put up with Hazrat Kharejah Bin Zaid Bin Abi Zubair. Later on, the two hosts became their brothers-in faith respectively.

The Climate Of Madina

After some time Hazrat Abu Bakr's Family, led by Hazrat Talha, joined him in Madina. But the climate of Madina did not agree with them. Hazrat Abu Bakr and his younger daughter, Hazrat Ayesha, who had already been wedded to the Holy Prophet in Makka, fell

seriously ill and they became too weak to move about. The Holy Prophet prayed for the climate of Madina. Allah granted the Prayer. Soon the climate became so agreeable that all the sick fully recovered and became healthy.

The Prophet's Mosque

By and by the Muslims scattered all over the region started flocking to Madina. The Charisma of the Holy Prophet was working. When they came to Madina in large numbers, the Holy Prophet thought about erecting a mosque for them. Nearby there was a plot of land most suitable for the purpose. It belonged to two orphans and their guardian would have gladly given away the plot free of cost for the noble cause. But the Holy Prophet insisted on paying for it and acquired it after a very satisfactory price was paid out to the orphans. Hazrat Abu Bakr paid the price from his own pocket and was now left with nothing. All his money had been spent for noble purposes-while in Makka he had paid for the freedom of slaves and with the remainder (five thousand) paid off for the plot.

Soon the mosque was ready. In its construction Hazrat Abu Bakr actively participated.

The Battle Of Badr

The believers left Makka as there they did not enjoy the freedom to worship Allah, and could not even recite His Name. But the foes would not let them live in peace even in Madina.

The Muslims had hardly been in Madina for a year when one thousand Makkan unbelievers raided it. They were well-armed. The Muslims were just 313 in number and most of them poorly armed. But they were fully equipped with the arms of their faith. A fierce battle took place in the plains of Badr where the Muslims emerged as victors and the unbelievers were routed out and had to flee in utter destruction and humiliation. Seventy of their leaders lost their lives and an equal number, were arrested. Hazrat Abu Bakr was physically involved in the battle and in the thick of the battle guarded his dearest one, risking his own security.

When the prisoners of war were brought to the Holy Prophet, he invited his companions' suggestion as to the treatment to be meted out to the foes. Hazrat Abu Bakr suggested that they should be set at liberty after paying the penalty. The Apostle of Allah endorsed and liked the suggestion.

Participation In Other Battles

Even after the Battle of Badr the unbelievers did not leave the Muslims in peace. They invaded Madina almost every year. The Muslims bravely faced them and inflicted humiliating defeat on them. They fled from the battlefield but started making preparations for the next invasion after being instigated by certain mischievous tribes. The Holy Prophet therefore decided to raid and destroy those mischief-mongers who always instigated them. In this connection several battles were fought. In each of the battles Muslims emerged as victors. Briefly speaking, there was no battle in which Hazrat Abu Bakr did not take part and display his valour. He upheld the banner of Islam facing the worst odds and risking his own life for the noble cause of strengthening Islam.

The Truce At Hudaibiah

Six years after the migration to Madina, the Holy Prophet expressed his desire to go to Makka and visit Kaaba. He sought advice from his companions. Hazrat Abu Bakr said, "It is a peaceful mission after all; so we must proceed." They set out with fourteen hundred companions. The Quraish stopped them at Hudaibiah.

The Holy Prophet avoided confrontation and preferred a peaceful agreement. In this way, there was truce between the two parties. The terms of the truce appeared to have placed the Muslims to some disadvantage and a few of the Holy Prophet's companions were not very pleased with them. They thought there was no reason to give any advantage to the Makkans over them. Hazrat Umar, in particular, was highly dissatisfied with the terms. On this occasion too Hazrat Abu Bakr rendered a significant service by boldly declaring. "The Apostle of Allah never does anything without His will." Now the Muslims were happy and fully satisfied.

The Conquest Of Makka

The Quraish did not honour the terms of the 'Truce'. Therefore the Holy Prophet started making preparations for conquering Makka. Eight years after the Migration, he led an army of ten thousand towards Makka. The mobilisation of the force was so discreetly arranged that the Makkans had no inkling of the advancing army. They came to know of it when it was knocking at their doors. They had been taken unaware and there was absolutely nothing that they could do. Even those arrogant chiefs, who had been foremost in torturing the Apostle of Allah and his companions,

stood with their heads bowed down in shame and in anticipation of the very just punishment for all their atrocities committed on the innocent ones. But the one who was 'Mercy unto all making' did not even think of vengeance and forgave them all.

Hazrat Au Bakr, meanwhile, rushed to meet his father, Abu Qahafa, and found him eager to embrace Islam. He brought him to the Holy Prophet, who seated him with respect and made him a convert to Islam by making him recite the *kalimah*.

Who could gauge Hazrat Abu Bakr's joy now. His entire family had already accepted Islam as their Faith, and now even his father and one of his sons, Abdur Rehman became Muslims.

Second To None

Nine years after the Migration, when the Holy Prophet gave out a call inviting donations for the preparations of the Battle of Tabuk, Hazrat Omar was very glad as on this occasion he hoped to get an opportunity to get precedence over Hazrat Abu Bakr. He knew Hazrat Abu Bakr did not have any money to donate, whereas he himself had a few thousand *dirhams*.

Hazrat Omar laid aside half of this amount for his

children and went to the Holy Prophet with the remaining half.

"What have you brought?" asked the Holy Prophet.

"Half of what I had is here and the other half has been put aside for my children," replied Hazrat Omar.

Meanwhile, Hazrat Abu Bakr also arrived with what he had to offer. In response to a similar question put to him by the Holy Prophet, he said, "I have brought all I have". And what did you leave behind for your children? asked the Apostle. His prompt reply was: "For them I have Left behind the Name of Allah and His Apostle."

Hazrat Omar exclaimed, "Verily, O Abu Bakr, it is impossible to get precedence over you; you remain first in virtue, nobility, kindness and generosity.

Rendered Service As Imam

In the ninth year after the Migration, when the Muslims were about to set out for the Annual Pilgrimage (Haj) and the Holy Prophet was unable to go with them on account of certain reasons, he appointed Hazrat Abu Bakr 'leader of the Pilgrimage.' Next year also Hazrat Abu Bakr joined the Holy Prophet when he went to Makka for the Final

Pilgirmage (Haj). A few days after his arrival back in Madina, the Holy Prophet fell seriously ill and his ailment got worse day by day, so much that he was no more able to lead the prayers. He deputed Hazrat Abu Bakr in his place and himself offered the prayer led by Hazrat Abu Bakr.

After the same prayer the Holy Prophet commented, "All those who have done me favours have been suitably rewarded, except Abu Bakr. He will be rewarded by Allah on the Day of Reckoning. Allah be my witness, what Abu Bakr gave me has benefitted me more than what others have done for me."

His Sagacity And Prudence

The Apostle of Allah left for his Heavenly Abode on 12th Rabi-ul-Awwal in the 11th year of the Migration. Hearing the sad news, his companions were shocked and overwhelmed with grief. Hazrat Abu Bakr saw Hazrat Omar at the gate of the Prophet's mosque brandishing a sword in fury and crying out, "Whosoever dares to say the Prophet is dead will be beheaded by me." Hazrat Abu Bakr endeavoured to reason with him but he refused to listen to him. At last he started delivering a speech, one of the noblest in the Islamic history: "Listen to me, O People, those of you who worshipped Muhammad (PBOH) should better

know that he is no more, and if you worship Allah, verily he is Eternal, Immortal." In support of his statement he cited the verse of the Holy Quran:

"Muhammad is just a prophet and many a prophet has passed away before him. Should he die or is assassinated, would you then turn your faces from the True Path?"

His noble words quieted the agitated people and Hazrat Umar sheathed his sword.

Chosen As Caliph

After the passing away of the Holy Prophet, the most sensible ones among the Muslims were worried about appointing someone as the Prophet's successor (caliph) without delay. After a long deliberation they unanimously chose a responsible man worthy of the position-Hazrat Abu Bakr, and somehow made him accept the post.

The next day he gave a sermon in the mosque: "O people, I have been chosen by you as your *Khaleefa* (caliph) despite my feelings that I am unworthy of it. I will try to act strictly in accordance with the dictates of Allah and the practice of His Apostle. Should I deviate from the Right Path and go astray, you shall not obey me, but straighten me. Always remember, the nation

that ceases to take up arms for the cause of Allah, is condemned to doom and ignominy. Those among whom wickedness becomes rampant are accursed. May Allah be Merciful to us"

Had To Give Up Trade

After being chosen for the position of Caliph, one day he was going to market, as usual, with his merchandise. On the way, Hazrat Umar met him and asked him, "It is impossible for you to look after your business as well as attend to your duties as Caliph"!

Hazrat Abu Bakr replied, "How can I provide for my children if I do't do this?"

Hazrat Umar went away, had a talk with his companions and agreed upon an annual stipend for him in order to enable him to carry out his duties as Caliph without worrying about earning his livelihood.

This decision was intimated to Hazrat Abu Bakr, who accepted it and gave up trade from the very day.

The First Step As Caliph

Certain christian rulers were creating trouble on the borders of Arabia and Syria. The Prophet had organised an army to deal with them and had appointed Hazrat Usama Bin Zayad, a boy of seventeen, the commander. But before the army could depart on its mission the Holy Prophet Passed away. After becoming the Caliph, the first job that he undertook was completing the organisation of the army under Hazrat Usama's command. Some companions of the Holy Prophet advised against sending out the army but Hazrat Abu Bakr turned down the suggestion saying, "Who am I to stop the army that the Holy Prophet Himself had decide to despatch?" There were some others who did not agree to the appointment of hazrat Usama as the commander on the ground of his lack of experience and suggested that the army should have some more experienced and mature commander. Hazrat Abu Bakr gave the same argument, "I have no right to amend what the Holy Prophet had planned. It was he who appointed him commander."

The army set out and it came back victorious forty days after quelling the rebellions and punishing the trouble makers.

Standing Instructions

Hazrat Abu Bakr outlined the code of conduct for the soldiers at the time of their departure for the battlefield:

1. Never betray the trust reposed in you.
2. Keep the promises.
3. Never steal.
4. Don't dismember the slain and avoid slaying children, women and the aged.
5. Don't fell the date-palms and don't burn them.
6. Don't fell the fruit-bearing trees.
7. Don't slay sheep, cows or camels save for food purposes.
8. Those who are busy worshipping in churches should be left alone.
9. Whatever of the eatables you are offered, eat them in the Name of Allah.
10. If you come across those whose crowns are shaved but with long hair around, slay them.

Claimants Of Prophethood

After the passing away of the Holy Prophet there arose in various parts of Arabia several people who falsely proclaimed themselves as prophets and by and

by came to have a considerable following.

Hazrat Abu Bakr promptly took stern measures to check this 'multiheaded' menace and despatched armies under the command of Hazrat Khalid Bin Walid and other leaders. Fierce battles took place. Two of the so-called Prophet's fell in the battlefield and two more, including a woman, fled in disgrace. In later years both of them embraced Islam.

The following were the false Prophets:

Aswad Anasi: He had staked his false claim for Prophethood during the last days of the Holy Prophet's life. He belonged to Yamen and was the chief of his tribe. The Holy Prophet himself had despatched an army under the command of Moaz Ibn Jabal to punish him. He was put to death a few days before the passing away of the Apostle of Allah.

Musailmah Kazzab: He belonged to the Hanifa tribe and declared himself (false) prophet during the final days of the Prophet's life. Unceasing efforts were made to reason with him and to bring him to senses, but he did not relent and went on creating mischief. At last Hazrat Abu Bakr despatched the army against him. A fierce battle took place at Yamamah and he fell to the swords of the Muslims. A considerable number of Muslims also sacrificed their lives, with seventy memorancers of the Holy Quran among them.

Taleha Bin Khawailad Asadi: He was the chief of the bani Asad and lived in Najd. On hearing the news of the Apostle's passing away he staked his (false) claim for prophethood and as a result, Hazrat Khalid Bin Walid's army routed his forces out. He fled to Syria and, in later years, embraced Islam. During the Caliphate of Hazrat Umar he valiantly fought several battles for the Muslims.

Sajah Bint-e-Harith: She belonged to the Tamim tribe and had falsely claimed to be a Prophetess and to strengthen her position married Musailmah Kazzab. Later on, she repented of her folly and embraced Islam during the reign of Hazrat Amir Muawiyah.

The Ones That Renounced Islam

Quite a few Arab chiefs had embraced Islam, not sincerely, but it was mere pretence. After the passing away of the Prophet of Allah, they started their mischief-mongering. Foremost among them were Noman Bin Munzir in Behrain and Laqit Bin Malik in Oman. In Kanadah too several chiefs had proclaimed themselves kings. Not only that but they also snapped all ties with Islam. This was a dangerous precedent. Hazrat Abu Bakr resolved to deal with these traitors and hypocrites after punishing the false prophets. He sent the armies to Behrain under the command of Ala

Bin Hadrmi, to Oman under Huzaifa Bin Mahsan, and to Kanadah under Ziyad Bin Labaid. The armies wiped out the mischief-makers and rid the country of such diabolical persons.

The Rebels who refused To Pay Zakaat

Meanwhile, a few persons refused to pay Zakaat. Zakaat is an important institution of Islam, made obligatory upon the Muslims by Allah. It is the right of the poor Muslims. Hazrat Abu Bakr paid attention to this matter, tried to agree with them to make them realise their mistake and finally, when they refused to listen to reason, he declared war against them.

The rebels had miscalculated the power of the Islamic State and were under the illusion that it was too weak to stand up to them. But they were at their wit's ends when the Islamic Army routed them out after a few skirmishes.

In this way, after almost a year's struggle the Islamic State was successful in making all the mischief-mongers feel its power and authority to the degree that such rebellions were given a death blow and the countrymen breathed a sigh of relief.

Compiling The Holy Quran

A good number of memorancers of the Holy Quran had lost their valuable lives in various battles. Particularly in the battle fought against Musailmah Kazzab about seventy of them lost their lives. This caused serious concern to Hazrat Omar, who, in their deaths, foresaw the loss of the valuable parts of the Holy Quran. He suggested the compilation of the Divine Revelation. Hazrat Abu Bakr whole- heartedly endorsed the suggestion and entrusted Hazrat Zaid bin Harith with this great responsibility. The sequence of the chapters and verses had already been decided strictly in accordance with the will of Allah, by the Holy Prophet himself and now the Revelations scattered in fragments on the branches of date palms, stone slabs, leather, bones, pieces of cloth had to be put together to form a book. Hazrat Zaid completed this great job with care and diligence, and thus the Holy Quran was officially given the garb of a book.

This was his great achievement. He was the original compiler of the Quran and, later on, the copies of the compilation were put in circulation.

The 'Outside' Mischief

After his appointment to the position of Caliph, Hazrat Abu Bakr was confronted by serious problems. There arose 'false' prophets and there were quite a lot of hypocrites who shamelessly declared their retreat from Islam. A few refused to pay Zakaat. All this was being done at the instigation of certain foreign powers. Among them were the Persians and the Christians. They had common borders with Arabia and could easily create disturbance in it. They were deadly enemies of Islam. In the establishment and rapid expansion of the Islamic State they could foresee their own doom and they were trying their level best to destabilize the State.

It is only with the grace of Allah that almost all the enemies of Islam as well as the foreign agents in the Islamic State were wiped out. Now Hazrat Abu Bakr began to plan as to how the Muslims should foil the foreign intrigues against Islam.

Attack On Persia (Iran)

Hazrat Abu Bakr never did anything without consulting his companions. He asked them how he

should deal with the Persians and the Romans. They anonymously advised him to mount an attack on them.

First of all he sent out a large army to Iran under the command of Khalid Bin walid, who was so valiant that he had earned for himself the title- "The Sword of Allah." He had to face the Persian troops at every step but Allah crowned him with success everywhere. Now his very name was enough to strike terror in the hearts of the Persians and they avoided coming face to face with him. Wherever he went, success followed his steps. In this way, many regions like Heirah, Anbar, Ainut-tamar, Dooamatul-Jandal fell under the control of the Muslims. The very backbone of the persian Empire was broken.

Attack On Syria

The Syrians had also been trying to weaken the Islamic State and were busy hatching conspiracies to achieve their evil ends. Victories over the Persian had infused new vigour and strength into the Muslims. Finding it a golden opportunity, Hazrat Abu Bakr got busy with the preparations for war. He planned to launch a multi-sided attack on Syria and sent out armies under the command of Hazrat Abu Obeida, Hazrat Yazid Bin Abu Sufian, Hazrat Shur-Jeil Bin Hasanah and Hazrat Amr Bin-al-Aas. The Roman

forces were also ready to face them but they could not stand up to the onslaught of the Muslims in spite of their very large number. After dealing with the Persians, Hazrat Khalid Bin Walid also joined them and the Syrians gave up all hopes of victory.

Within a short time Basra, Fahl and Ajnadin fell under the control of the Islamic Forces that now marched forward and surrounded Demascus. The battle had hardly started when the sad news of Hazrat Abu Bakr's demise reached the Muslims which affected their might for a little while.

Illness

It was winter of the thirteenth year of the Migration. On the seventh of Jamadiul Aakhir, Hazrat Abu Bakr took a bath and was down with fever, that persistently got worse making him too feeble to move about. At last he had to request Hazrat Omar to lead the prayers at the Prophet's Mosque. The illness got serious and when people asked him whether he was being treated by a physician, he always gave the same reply: "My physician (Allah) has me under His watchful Eye and I am satisfied."

When he felt that he was not going to live any longer, he called his companions and propose Hazrat

Omar's name for the position of Caliph, and everyone seconded him.

Then he called the Madinites and addressed them: "I am about to leave you. I have nominated Hazrat Omar as the next caliph, not because he is related to me but because I do not find a better man among you all. Do you agree to my choice?" They fully agreed with him. Then he gave Hazrat Omar valuable pieces of advice that were to become the guideline for his future career as the Caliph.

The Will

It is important for the Muslims to leave behind instructions for the successors regarding how they wish their property to be disposed of after their death. Hazrat Abu Bakr, when on death bed, called Hazrat Ayesha, his daughter and the Mother of the Muslims, and affectionately said, "My last hour has come. After my death give unto your brothers and sisters what is theirs, pay off the amount I owe to the Bait-ul-Mal by selling off one of my gardens. My female-slave, both the she-camels and the sheet of cloth that covers my body, are not mine but are government property. Send them to Hazrat Omar when I breathe my last."

Then he called his slave and said, "Work out the

sum I have received as my salary from the Bait-ul-Mal. This amount is to be paid back to the Bait-ul-Mal by selling off my house.

After his dath, his final instructions were carried out accurately. When the state slaves went to Hazrat Omar with the female-slave, she-camels and the amount equivalent to the total sum received by Hazrat Abu Bakr as salary, Hazrat Omar burst into tears and remarked, " Hazrat Abu Bakr has put us to a very difficult test. How can anyone act like him?"

Death

On 23rd Jamadi-ul-Aakhir in the thirteenth year of the Migration, Hazrat Abu Bakr, lying on bed, asked, "what day is it?" " Monday," was the reply. Then he asked, "On what day did the Apostle of Allah pass away?"

He was told it was a Monday. He looked at the sky and said, " I wish to die tonight. Then he asked, "How many clothes made the shroud for the Apostle of Allah?" Hazrat Ayesha replied, "Three" He said, "Two are on my body, wash them. Get one from the bazar." Hazrat Ayesha was moved to tears and said, "We will get all the three new from the bazar." Hazrat Abu Bakr said, "Those who are alive stand in greater need of new clothes than the dead."

Allah granted his wish and he passed away between Maghrib and Isha-Inna lillah -e-wa- Inna-Elaihe- Rajeeon! His wife, Hazrat Asma Bint Omaish, gave the body the wash, Hazrat Omar led the funeral prayer and he was buried on the right side of the Apostle of Allah.

So profound was his love for the Apostle that even after death he remained close to him.

Allah Granted His Wish

Hazrat Abu Bakr's love for the Apostle of Allah was beyond measure and there was none who was dearer to him than the Divine Messenger. His strongest desire was to walk in the footsteps of the Apostle and to imitate his 'Ideal' as closely as possible. He also wished to live for as many years as the Holy Prophet had done.

Allah granted him 63 years of life, equal to that granted to the Holy Prophet.

He breathed his last on Monday, the day when the Holy Prophet had passed away. He remained in harness for two years and a quarter.

His Wives

Hazrat Abu Bakr married four times and the names of his wives are as under.

Qateela Bint Abdulza. She belonged to the tribe 'Lui' and Hazrat Abu Bakr had married her before he embraced Islam.

Umm-i-Rooman Bint Aamir. she belonged to 'Bani Kinana' and Hazrat Abu Bakr married her before becoming a convert to Islam.

Asma Bint Umais. She belonged to 'Khathaam' and was a widow of Hazrat Jaafar Bin Abi Talib. Hazrat Abu Bakr married her after he had embraced Islam.

Habiba Bint Kharejah: She belonged to 'Khazrat'. After embracing Islam Hazrat Abu Bakr married her.

His Children

From the first wife:

1. *Abdullah Bin Abu Bakr:* He becoame a convert to Islam in the very early years. In the Battle of Taif he fought shoulder to shoulder with the Holy Prophet against the foe. He died when Hazrat Abu Bakr was in harness.

2. *Asma Bint Abu Bakr*: She rendered valuable services to the Holy Prophet when he stayed in the Cave Saur. She was married to Hazrat Zaid Bin Alawam and had a son, Hazrat Abdullah bin Zubair, from him. She lived for a hundred years and lost her sight in later years.

From the second wife.

1. *Hazrat Abud-r-Rehman Bin Abu Bakr*: He became a convert to Islam after many years and fought in various battles during the caliphate of his worthy father. He died in the fifty third year after the Migration.

2. *Hazrat Ayesha bint Abu Bakr*: She had the privilege of becoming the Holy Prophet's wife. She was very intelligent and a great scholar of Hadith. She passed away at the age of 70 in 58Hijrah (Migration) and was buried in Jannat-ul-Baquee.

From the third wife was Hazrat Mohammad Bin Abu Bakr alias 'Qasim'. During the Caliphate of Hazrat Ali he was appointed governor of Egypt, and died there.

From the fourth wife was Umm-i-Kulsum who was born posthomously.

What Was He Like?

Hazrat Abu Bakr was fair-complexioned, lanky, with scanty flesh on the cheeks, and a cheerful face. The eyes were a little deep set and the forehead was broad. The front part of the head was bald. He applied henna to the hair and wore a ring on a finger.

He was extremely generous and always helped the poor and the needy.

He was very soft-hearted and wept bitterly while reciting the Holy Quran. But he was also brave and full of courage. He loved the Prophet beyond measure, feared Allah and was pious and regular in prayers. He prayed at night and fasted by day. His nature was extremely simple. He was very hospitable, always served the fellowmen and tried to imitate the Holy Prophet in thoughts and deeds.

Fear of Allah

Hazrat Abu Bakr prayed at night and fasted by day and he endeavoured to remain foremost in all virtuous deeds, still the fear of Allah and the worry for accountability on the Day of Reckoning made him shudder and shed tears.

Once while passing by a garden he saw a number of birds chirping melodiously. He looked at them with longing eyes and exclaimed: "You are indeed very lucky, O birds, to be able to fly about and sing so freely. On the Day of Reckoning there shall be no fear of accountability for you. I wish I were like you!"

His Feelings For Baitul Maal

For Hazrat Abu Bakr 'Baitul Maal' was the property of the Muslims and he himself was nothing save its trustee. He was, therefore, very careful while spending from it.

One day his wife expressed her desire to prepare a sweet dish and for that she asked him to provide sweetener. He replied with regret that the amount he got as stipend was too meagre for such luxuries. But one day he was surprised to see a sweet dish placed before him. When he asked her about it, she explained to him that she had been laying by a little amount from daily expenses and with it she had prepared the dish. He said, "The amount you could afford to lay by without affecting the daily expenses is an extra amount that we can easily do without."

And he instructed an equal amount to be cut down from the stipend given to him from the Baitul Mal.

Avoiding What Was Unlawful

Once his slave brought him something sweet to eat. He ate it with relish and said, "It is very tasty. Where did you get it from?" The slave replied, "Before embracing Islam I had told a person his fortune. In fact, I had cheated him as I did not know how it was done. I met that man today and he gave it to me to show his gratitude."

On hearing this Hazrat Abu Bakr's face blushed with fear. By thrusting his fingers inside the throat, he vomited out all that he had eaten and said, "The body that feeds on what is unlawful is bound to end up in Hell."

Thus you see how sensitive he was in this matter!

Guarding The Tongue

One of the signs of a *Momin* is that he deliberately does not commit anything that may displease Allah. In the same way he never utters anything that may hurt others. If he does so unknowingly, he apologizes at once.

Once he said something that hurt Hazrat Rabeeia

Bin Jafar. Later on, he asked Hazrat Rabeeia to say something equally harsh about him. But when the Holy Prophet came to know of it, he told Hazrat Rabeeia not to do that but to say, "O Abu Bakr, may Allah forgive you."

When Hazrat Rabeeia uttered these words, Hazrat Abu Bakr was satisfied.

Concern About The companions' Feelings

Once there was an argument between Hazrat Abu Bakr and Hazrat Omar and quite unintentionally Hazrat Abu Bakr said something that hurt Hazrat Omar. Hazrat Abu Bakr felt extremely sorry for it and apologized to Hazrat Omar, who refused to accept the apology. This made Hazrat Abu Bakr sad and he regretfully reported the matter to the Holy Prophet, who comforted him by repeating three times, "Abu Bakr, may Allah forgive you."

On his side, Hazrat Omar also felt repentent and went to Hazrat Abu Bakr. When he did not find him there, he went to the Holy Prophet looking for him. The Holy Prophet's face expressed his displeasure. Hazrat Abu Bakr was now fully aware of the seriousness of the matter and, bending his knees, entreated, "O Apostle of Allah, Omar is not to be

blamed; the fault was mine."

Thus you see how much Abu Bakr cared for his companions.

Free From Vanity

Hazrat Abu Bakr was a man of simple nature, totally free from vanity. He did not mind doing menial jobs.

Whenever an army was sent out, he did not mind walking a little distance with departing army although he was the Caliph. If an officer tried to get off his horse out of respect for the Caliph, Hazrat Abu Bakr stopped him from doing it, and remarked:

"There is no harm if I cover my feet with dust while walking in the Path of Allah."

He reported the Holy Prophet's saying:

"The fire of Hell cannot touch the one who soils his feet by walking in Allah's Path."

Humility

Hazrat Abu Bakr liked humility and courtesy, and was miles away from vanity. When the people stood up in his presence out of respect for 'the Holy

Prophet's successor' he was not very pleased and remarked, "People have given me too much respect."

If anyone praised him, he exclaimed, "O Allah, you know me more than I know myself and I know myself more than these people do. Enable me to prove myself worthy of their expectation, even better than that; forgive me for my sins and do not hold me responsible for all the praises they heap upon me."

Spending In The Name Of Allah

Hazrat Abu Bakr was financially very well off and had forty thousand dirhams. But he spent it all in the Name of Allah after embracing Islam.

The Holy Prophet said, "No one's wealth has proved as much beneficial to me as Abu Bakr's."

Once the Apostle of Allah said:

"According to the services rendered to me with life and property, no body's obligation on me is greater than that of Abu Bakr's."

When he heard these words, Hazrat Abu Bakr was moved to tears and said, "O Apostle of Allah, my life and possessions are for you alone."

Who Will Milk The Goats?

Walking in the footsteps of the Apostle of Allah, Hazrat Abu Bakr always looked for a chance to prove himself helpful to others. In Madina there lived an orphan girl. Before being elected to the position of Caliph, Hazrat Abu Bakr used to milk her goats for her. After his becoming Caliph, she came to him and said, "You are a Caliph now. I wonder who will milk my goats now on?"

He replied:

"A Caliph is nothing save the servant of the people. I will milk your goats."

The girl was happy. Hazrat Abu Bakr milked her goats regularly.

Interpreting Dreams

Hazrat Abu Bakr was an expert in interpreting dreams. At times even the Apostle of Allah asked him to interpret his dreams.

Once the Apostle of Allah dreamt a large number of white sheep had joined a few black sheep and told Hazrat Abu Bakr to interpret the dream. He replied:

"O Apostle of Allah, The black-hued sheep stand for the Arabs who will first of all embrace Islam, and the white ones symbolise the Persians who will become converts to Islam in a large number."

The Apostle of Allah said;

"You are right. The angel of Allah has already confirmed your interpretation."

Serving The People

Hazrat Abu Bakr found pleasure in looking for an opportunity to serve others.

Near Madina there lived a blind old woman who had nobody to look after her. Hazrat Omar used to go to her early in the morning and did the household chores. One day he noticed that somebody came to the hut much earlier and finished all the work. This caused him anxiety. Who was that person?

Once he went to the hut at dawn and hid himself nearby to solve the mystery. He saw a man come to the hut, finish all the work, and when he was leaving it, Hazrat Omar recognised him as the Caliph Abu Bakr, who always remained foremost in serving the people in order to win Allah's pleasure.

Hospitality

Hazrat Abu Bakr was extremely hospitable and looked after his guests. Once a few 'Companions of Saffa' stayed at his house. He instructed his son, Hazrat Abdur Rehman to look after and properly entertain the guests as he himself was going out on the Prophet's errand."

But the guests did not like to partake of meal in Hazrat Abu Bakr's absence and preferred to await his arrival. By chance he came back late. When he learnt that the guests had not had the meal, he was displeased with his son. But his anger subsided when the guests explained to him that they themselves had preferred to wait for his arrival. The idea of putting the guests to some inconvenience was unbearable to him.

A Lover Of Virtuous Deeds

Hazrat Abu Bakr shuddered with fear thinking of the Hereafter and the accountability on the Day of Reckoning, hence he never missed an opportunity to do some virtuous deed and render some little service to others.

Once the Holy Prophet put several questions to the Companions:

1. Who amongst you is fasting today?
2. Who amongst you offered the funeral prayer today?
3. Who amongst you fed a hungry man today?
4. Who amongst you has nursed a sick man today?

Hazrat Abu Bakr was the only one to give a positive response to all the questions. The Holy Prophet remarked:

"One who has such a rich store of virtuous deeds done in a single day will go to Heaven without any doubt."

May Allah bless us all with the same thirst for doing virtuous and kind deeds. Aameen!

The First And The Foremost

Hazrat Abu Bakr always tried to remain foremost in every deed that is good, kind, noble and virtuous. He was the first in:

- * Embracing Islam (among men).
- * Choosing the title "Mashaf" for the Holy Quran.
- * Compiling the Holy Quran after the Holy Prophet.
- * Declaring crusade (*jihad*) against the Unbelievers.
- * Establishing the Bait-ul-Maal.

- * Interpreting Islamic law.
- * Being the Khalifa-e-Raashid.
- * Getting Caliphate during the life-time of the father.
- * Being declared among the followers of the Holy Prophet to enter Heaven.
- * Being awarded the title 'Ateeque'.

Pearls From His Mouth

Let the following pieces of advice guide your life:

1. Those who are Allah's friends do not mind spending whatever they possess for Allah (for virtuous deeds).
2. If you want peace, refrain from complaining against others.
3. To assist in wickedness is also wickedness.
4. Virtuous deeds keep one (away) from wicked deeds.
5. Do good deeds to offset your evil deeds and avoid punishment.
6. To stay alone is far better than having the company of the wicked ones.
7. Sin is the darkness that can be dissipated by the Fear of Allah.

8. Akhirah is also the darkness that can be dissipated only with virtuous deeds.
9. The real prayer is the one that has your heart in it.
10. Knowledge is the legacy of the Prophets.
11. Troubles and worries can be overcome through patience.
12. It is a shame that even the birds beat you in early rising.
13. If you wish to win respect, entertain other.
14. Shun Position and fame, and respect will do your steps.
15. Three evils can become the most dreadful curse for a man:

(a) wickedness (b) falling back upon one's word
(c) deceit.
